

# OCALA EVENING STAR

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## FOR OR AGAINST

### THE PRESIDENT

The Ocala Star publishes a lengthy editorial criticizing the comment of the Times-Union on President Wilson's recent note to the British government. Our comment didn't please the Star, and we did not remember anything we said that did. But that doesn't matter. Men may honestly hold opposite opinions, and so long as they discuss them honestly and fairly there is no reason why either should object.

The Star thinks the Times-Union opposes President Wilson in every stand that he takes, but this shows that it has either not read this paper closely or that it has forgotten. As to matters of legislative policy the Times-Union has never differed with President Wilson except in his insistence on putting sugar and wool on the free list. While we would like to see a tariff enacted that would cut out every dollar of protection so long as protection remains in the tariff, we think it should be equitably distributed.

The Times-Union expressed its hearty approval of the appointment of Mr. Bryan as secretary of state. Enlightened by the management of the state department during the last two years we would not do it again, but we did it when Mr. Bryan was appointed.

When President Wilson took his stand against dollar diplomacy, we endorsed his position as cordially as if he had been our choice for the presidency. We did the same when he announced a policy of recognizing only legally-elected American governments.

With the exception of free listing sugar and wool—two commodities of which Florida does not produce as much as it consumes—we were with the president for tariff reduction, and we did not flicker when Florida products were involved.

When President Wilson asked Congress to appeal the clause in the Panama canal act which exempted American coastwise shipping from canal tolls, the Times-Union stood with the president and against Representative Underwood and Representative Clark.

These are only a few instances that we remember. There are plenty of others. In fact, so far as matters of legislation are concerned there is no man in public life with whom the Times-Union has often agreed or more rarely disagreed than with President Wilson. If the editor of the Star had read the Times-Union regularly and had remembered what he read, he would not have charged this paper with desire to differ with the president. The Ocala Star is regularly read in this office, but we do not remember everything it says. If we did, we might remember that at some time or other the Star was pleased with something we said.

But while the Times-Union has no desire to differ with the president, it is not particularly careful to agree with him, and since the majority of the Democratic papers accept him as inspired, our refusal to do so is conspicuous, while we are lost in the crowd when we agree with him. And so the impression prevails that we always oppose the president—never agree with him.

Our criticism of the president has been mainly on account of his usurpation of the powers of Congress, but for this Congress has been as much to blame as he has. He has the veto power and the power to recommend, but he has no legal power to originate legislation. Will the Star or will anyone else say that the spirit of the Constitution is not violated when the executive department controls the legislative department of the government?

The Times-Union has bitterly criticized the handling of the Mexican situation by the administration. We thought the sending of a brigade and of almost the entire fleet against

Huerta a very undignified procedure. Refusing to recognize him as an official either de jure or de facto a nation of one hundred million people was made to send a powerful expedition against him. Wasn't this like hunting sparrows with a Krupp cannon?

American lives and American property or lives and property confided to the care of this government were sacrificed in Mexico. Protest after protest was made and every one treated with contempt. Was this in keeping with the dignity of the American nation? Americans were shot across the border. More protests, always ignored. Then troops were sent with the statement that if the Mexicans fired across the border, Americans would return the fire—more firing across the border than ever, and not an American soldier allowed to fire a shot in exchange. Then the chief of staff of the United States army was sent to reason and plead with the Mexicans to stop. We would like to see the Star say specifically whether it was ashamed of that performance. Any man or woman must be—perhaps a molluscan thing would not.

Then the seizure of Vera Cruz with the demand Huerta shall salute the flag, the statement that the honor of the nation demands it, and when he persisted in refusing the explicit withdrawal of the demand.

The Star does not approve of this any more than the Times-Union does. The whole business is a deep disgrace to the United States, and when pinned down we don't think the Star will have the cheek to deny it.—Times-Union.

The Star feels complimented to know that it is regularly read in the Times-Union office, but it is afraid it isn't read very closely by the gentleman who wrote the foregoing, else he would have written quite differently.

After reading the Times-Union article, the editor of the Star went to his files, and by a cursory skimming over the issues of the last six or eight months he found quite a number of expressions of opinion agreeing with the Times-Union, and several lengthy articles reproduced from that paper with the Star's approval definitely given. In fact, the Times-Union has been quoted often by the Star and with more approval than any other paper.

There are some three or four lines of policy on which the Star differs with the Times-Union, and some times criticizes. It prints more things we sympathize and approve with than we have room to comment on at any length, let alone reproduce. The Star considers the Times-Union an excellent paper, and as it is a Florida paper, it is glad to be able to truthfully say it considers its editorial page equal to any and superior to many. As for differing with its editorial policy sometimes, we only quote from the foregoing article its own sentiment, which we learned many years ago, and have always tried to practice, that "Men may honestly hold opposite opinions, and so long as they discuss them honestly and fairly, there is no reason why either should object."

But the Times-Union goes on to say, "The Star thinks the Times-Union opposes President Wilson in every stand he takes."

There was a time when the Star had mighty good reason to think the Times-Union opposed Mr. Wilson in everything, and that it was not alone in that opinion many others in Florida can testify. But in the article the Times-Union refers to, it did not make any such statement. It did refer to the T-U's often and sometimes, it thinks, unfair criticism of Mr. Wilson. In the last year, the Star has complimented the Times-Union several times for supporting the president's policies and once it reprinted approvingly an article of considerable length in which the Times-Union ably argued in favor of Mr. Wilson's stand on the Panama canal treaty. The Star also noted approvingly the Times-Union's support of the president's attitude toward dollar diplomacy and two or three other important questions.

Anybody who reads the Star's article and then reads the Times-

Union's reply will see that the Times-Union has not answered the Star. It referred to one or two of the Star's remarks and then went to talking about something else. For instance, it hasn't told, as the Star asked it to do, wherein Cleveland's foreign policy shone with bravery and dignity in regard to Britain, Mexico or any other country.

The Times-Union's article, in fact, is simply a protest against the opinion so widely prevalent in this state that it is not giving President Wilson a fair deal. We will say for it that it is giving him a fairer deal than it did a year ago, but it is not straining its capacity for fairness now. For instance, we did not consider its criticism of the president's policy in dealing with Great Britain fair, and that is why we wrote the article that excited the Times-Union's protest. It will be seen that in its answer, the Times-Union referred to this in its first paragraph, and did not allude to it again, let alone answer it.

The Times-Union should know the Star has criticized Mr. Wilson's Mexican policy, not bitterly but as sharply as it thought it should. The Star hasn't joined the T-U. in saying Mr. Wilson was cowardly. It has said that it thought he was mistaken, that in some things he blundered, that he was entirely inexcusable in allowing the firing across the border to go on as long as it has—in fact it has said a good deal of the things the Times-Union has said, and as some of them were reproduced on the editorial page of the T-U, it is strange that that paper now speaks of our needing to be pinned down to support our own statements.

We do not consider President Wilson as inspired. We think he is a good man and a great one. We expected him to make some mistakes when he took office, and we decline to abuse him because he fulfills our expectations. We think he has much greater faith in the good that should be in human nature than we have.

We are willing to admit that his belief in this respect may work out better than we expect it to, and we sincerely wish it may, no matter how much we doubt it. After observing the conduct of every president from Hayes on as closely as possible through the press, and the opinions of people, we must say that we do not think Mr. Wilson has tried to enroach on the power of Congress any more than any of them and not as much as some of them. Mr. Wilson came into office with the definite pledges of a great party, as approved by the people at the polls, to carry out. He has, it is true, urged these measures on Congress. He did not—could not—compel Congress to carry them out. Congress could have refused to enact any and all of them into law, and would have done so if a majority of both houses had not agreed with the president. In nothing that Congress has done has it had more strenuous urging from Mr. Wilson than in the matter of tolls repeal, in which he had the support of the Times-Union. This alone disposes of the T-U's argument on that line.

Mr. Wilson's Mexican policy cannot fairly be judged by the events of a few months. He is trying to bring about permanent peace for that country and solid friendship between it and this one. If he succeeds, the success will be worth all it costs. It has seemed to the Star that Mr. Wilson should protect American citizens in Mexico at any cost, that the Vera Cruz incident was a series of blunders and that forbearance long ago ceased to be virtue on the border. But Mr. Wilson is not selfish, mercenary nor cowardly. He is doing what he believes to be best, and no matter how much we disagree with him we don't intend to abuse him.

In conclusion we will say that we highly approve of and entirely endorse what the Times-Union said Monday in regard to "Mr. Taft and the Philippines," that we consider the T-U a mighty fine paper and agree with it about forty times to where we disagree with it once; that it has treated the Star very nicely most of the time, and the Star has tried to reciprocate; that it is welcome to spank us when it sees fit and we will light a firecracker under its coattail whenever we think the occasion demands.

This morning's session of the board of county commissioners was taken up by the hearing of complaints from constituents of the northwestern part of the county on road matters. Among the other citizens who made the welkin ring in the commissioners' rooms during the day was Mr. M. L. Payne, the Fairfield statesman and all round public spirited citizen.

The special election for alderman in the fourth ward is proceeding today. The candidates were supposed to be Messrs. F. G. B. Weihe and John T. Moore. Mr. Weihe, however, is out in a card in which he says he is

## Statement of the Condition of the

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At Close of Business Thursday, December 31st, 1914. Condensed from Report to the Comptroller of the Currency.

## RESOURCES

Loans and discounts, Mar- ion county warrants and securities .....	\$314,429.35
U. S. bonds to secure cir- culation .....	75,000.00
Banking house, furniture and fixtures .....	40,000.00
CASH:	
On hand .....	\$32,001.35
Due f'm banks .....	59,150.27
	91,151.62
	\$520,580.97
LIABILITIES	
Capital stock, fully paid in\$	75,000.00
Surplus (earned) .....	15,000.00
Undivided profits .....	456.48
Circulation .....	112,500.00
Bond account .....	1,000.00
DEPOSITS .....	316,624.49
	\$520,580.97

not a candidate, that he considers he was elected in the regular city election, and that he intends to take the matter into the courts. He will base his case on the argument that the council declared the vote a tie on one ballot, in which the cross before his name went over the line. So there will probably be some fun ahead.

## ENGLISH SIDE OF IT

The following from the Toronto Mail and Empire is a fair presentation of the British side of the question in searching neutral ships for contraband:

### The Washington Protest

In such a war as the one that is now being waged neutral nations must expect to be inconvenienced. They cannot fare as they do in times of profound peace. Their trade must suffer, and some of their rights must unavoidably be trampled upon. While they are entitled to every reasonable consideration at the hands of the belligerents, they cannot hope to be exempt from the procedure usually followed in regard to vessels under suspicion of engaging in contraband trade.

The allies are at war with a very formidable coalition of enemies, enemies whose machinations in neutral countries add enormously to the difficulties of the allies. Of the various modes of carrying on the war against Germany, Austria and Turkey, one of the most effective is that of isolating them from external sources of food supply and war material. In this war the prevention of contraband trade is extremely vital for Britain and her allies. They cannot afford to take any risks in regard to suspect cargoes, from whatsoever country such cargoes are exported. So far, the allies have been most considerate of the commercial interests of the United States. Whenever freight vessels carrying United States cargo are interfered with their examination is carried out with the utmost dispatch and with the least trouble. When vessels found to be carrying contraband have been diverted to British ports and there required to unload, the property rights of the owners have been respected. It is not a case of making prizes, but of preventing supplies reaching the enemy.

The strong protest made by the United States government against British warships stopping of United States merchantmen may have been prompted solely by a genuine feeling of grievance. It would be hasty to impute it to a desire to please the German element in the United States, whose votes will weigh heavy in the scale at the presidential election to be held less than two years hence. Very possibly President Wilson and Secretary Bryan will withstand with due firmness Germany's interference with United States consuls in Belgium. The Washington government will surely not submit to the German dismissal of these American agents accredited to the Belgium government and to the German requirement that they present commissions acceptable to the Berlin government.

The Washington government has felt itself bound by the conventions of neutrality to maintain a passive attitude in regard to transgressions of international law by Germany. President Wilson and Mr. Bryan gave no response to the heart-piercing appeals formally made in behalf of the Belgium victims of German atrocities. No protest came from Washington against Germany's laying of mines in the open routes of commerce. But when British orders came to United States manufacturers for war supplies the Wilson govern-

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A. E. BURNETT

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ment forbade the filling of the orders.

For that reason Mr. Schwab, the head of the Bethlehem Steel Company, sought to buy a plant in Montreal in which he could manufacture the articles ordered. When British ships used their own wireless equipment to send messages from waters under United States jurisdiction, Mr. Wilson's government insisted that the wireless equipment be removed.

No other country is now benefiting more from the war than is the United States. No country is reaping greater advantage from Britain's protection of the sea-routes than is the United States. No other foreign country will derive more benefit from the new security and the new spirit of progress that the allies will win for the world. Further, in no other neutral country are the great mass of the people so nearly heart and soul with Britain in this war as are the people of the United States.

## MEETING OF VETERANS

Marion Camp No. 56, U. C. V. met January 5th, 1915, W. E. McGahagan commanding.

Prayer by comrade H. W. Henry. The following members answered to roll call: Alfred Ayer, J. H. Brooks, J. L. Beck, R. A. Carlton, M. T. W. Christian, R. J. Evans, B. J. Freymouth, H. W. Henry, H. N. Knoblock, T. D. Lancaster, S. J. McAtter, W. E. McGahagan, John M. Martin, B. H. McIntosh, W. E. Martin, B. H. Norris, J. W. Nance, C. C. Priest, John Pasteur, William Richardson, Joe Shuford, J. H. Badger.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. All of the officers were unanimously reelected for 1915 except the chaplain, lately deceased. Capt. H. W. Henry was unanimously

ly elected chaplain. Maj. T. D. Lancaster was elected vice-commander.

Comrades F. E. Harris, M. T. W. Christian, Col. John M. Martin and Alfred Ayer were appointed a committee to write Gen. H. W. Long's memorial and that a page of the minutes be assigned to his name and this memorial be written on it, and a copy sent to his family.

Comrade W. B. Williams of Bowling Green, Ky., was introduced to the camp and made some appropriate remarks which were much enjoyed and he was requested to meet with the camp next month.

Alfred Ayer, Adj.

A large load of pine or oak wood for \$1. J. M. Potter, phone 15M. 4-6t

## NOTICE

The regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the Marion Hardware Company will be held in their office, Ocala, Fla., on January 12th, 1915, at 7:30 o'clock p. m., for the transaction of such business as shall come before the meeting.

H. B. Clarkson, President.  
C. E. Nelson, Secretary. 30-tf

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